

Austin Chapter **Celebrating 10 years
of outdoor fun!**

“Our mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a safe, non-threatening, and supportive environment.”

TOWN LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Club Secretary – Helen Sabin
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Club Historian – Penny Mudgett
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**Austin TOWN P.O. Box 300494
Austin, TX 78703**

A message from Amelia Greene, Outings Coordinator –

We have had many fun outings this spring – hiking at Wild Basin, full moon walk at Wild Basin with telescopes, camping at Lake Somerville and Inks Lake, horseback riding at Paulette's house, birding at Hornsby Bend, the Sea Kayak Symposium at San Luis Pass, a wine and wildflower tour and lots of kayaking on Town Lake and Lake Austin.

Everyone is welcome to come on outings - especially beginners.

Sometimes, you never know you like to do something - until you try it! And if you like being outside and want to make friends, outings are the place to be :-)

Now that daylight savings time is finally here, kayaking has started up again on Wednesdays on Town Lake. We meet at 6:00 but the meeting location varies. So check the TOWN calendar to find the exact meeting location.

Walking has been added to the kayaking activity on Wednesdays and meets at the same location as the kayakers.

If you aren't a kayaker but still want to get outside, please come join us and see beautiful Town Lake.

Kayaking has also been started on Saturday mornings - in response to the survey that was sent out a few months ago. We started meeting at 10:00 in February, March and April and have seen parts of Town Lake and beautiful parts of Lake Austin near the 360 bridge. In May we will be meeting at 9:00 and maybe we will change the time to 8:00 or 8:30 as the weather gets warmer. Please check the calendar for the meeting location and the time of this outing. If a camping outing occurs on a weekend, please check to see if anyone is going kayaking - if you don't want to kayak alone. (See the rest of Amelia's message and

how you can win \$50...page 3)



A look back at the February meeting...

Charlie McCabe, Executive Director of the Austin Parks Foundation, talked about the treasured 16,817 acres of parkland in Austin,

which encompasses 15.9% of the land in the city. He discussed how the park system has doubled in size in the past 10 years, but the park system budget has shrunk 25% in the past 5 years.

Town Lake alone gets over 600,000 users a year. McCabe discussed numerous volunteer efforts, Yoga in the Park, Movies in the Park and dog park development.

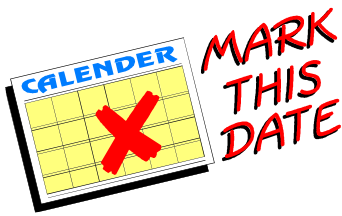
Austin Parks Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to supporting and improving Austin's parks. It is funded by memberships, corporate donations and foundation grants. There are currently

270 members and the goal is 500 by the end of 2006. To get involved go to www.austinparks.org for info

**Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Board Room of the LCRA Hancock Building
Pizza and outings meeting at 6PM, business meeting starts at 6:30PM**

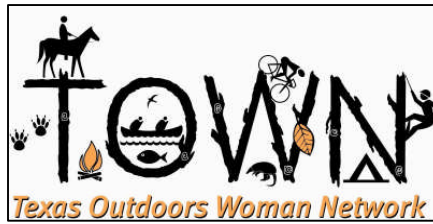
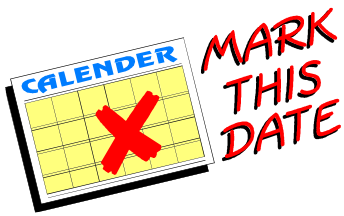
On April 25th, Ellen Bryant will speak on seeing India. She will be traveling to India again this summer and invites TOWN members to go with her. The trip will probably be late summer / early fall 2006. Directions -3701 Lake Austin Blvd, between Redbud Trail and Enfield, across from the Hula Hut (the middle building when you drive in the main entrance. The Board Room is easy to find. Enter the main building in the center of the courtyard on the south side of the complex.)

**See Page 3
about March
Meeting!**



Check our website
 for updated info
www.townaustin.org

EVENT	Date/Time	Contact
<p>Kayak and Hike on Town Lake (weather permitting) meet at the concrete drainage area behind Austin High School. Your choice, paddle or hike for about an hour, or until dark. You must provide your own boat.</p> <p>Beginning in May, the first Wed. of each month will include beginner lessons.</p>	<p>Wednesdays 6pm</p>	<p>Joy Emshoff jemshoff@austin.rr.com</p> <p>Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Kayak Meet at the boat launching area under the 360 rusty bridge. Bring your own boat.</p>	<p>Each Saturday in April 10:00am</p>	<p>Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Camp, Bike, Kayak, Snorkel, and Bird at Padre Island National Park and South Padre Island</p> <p>Some of us will be staying Wed. night at the Padre Island National Seashore (on the bay side) and Thurs. night through Mon. night at South Padre Island. We will stay at Blanca County Park; the phone number is 956-761-5495. The cost is \$10-20. request a site close to the "nicer" restrooms since the old ones are awful. - and its the same price. Leaders are CJ and Amelia.</p>	<p>Wed. – Mon. May 3- 8</p>	<p>RSVP to Amelia Greene ameliatx@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Mountain Biking at Reimer's Ranch</p>	<p>Saturday May 6</p>	<p>Jacque Austin jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Weekend</p> <p>This is a super experience. This BOW Weekend is located at Texas Baptist Encampment in Palacios. For additional information: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow/ Apply as soon as possible as spaces fill quickly.</p>	<p>Friday - Sunday, May 19-21</p>	
<p>Art Hike</p>	<p>Sunday May 21</p>	<p>Stephanie at szellous@Gmail.com</p>
<p>Monthly Meeting Pizza (courtesy of Mangia Pizza on Lake Austin) Meeting at the LCRA Hancock Building. Dutch Oven Cooking is presented by 3 Town members: Debbie Hardin , Nancy Lynch, and Judy Smith. We will try to hold this meeting outside . Bring your friends!</p>	<p>Tuesday May 23 Pizza 6pm; Meeting at 6:30pm</p>	



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<p>Intro to Windsurfing 5-hour comprehensive group class that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-minute classroom session • 1½ hour land simulator session • 2½ hour on-water session • Equipment and safety vests provided <p>Experience the exhilarating sport of Windsurfing! Learn to glide across the water. Safety is emphasized and the student learns the basics of wind theory, rigging, balance, proper positioning and making turns by tacking. Students should know how to swim and be able to hold their breath under water for 5 seconds. No children allowed. No experience necessary. Meet at Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point on Lake Travis - 2 miles past the Oasis Restaurant on Comanche Trail. Cost: \$50/per person payable in advance to register. Parking fee is \$8/per vehicle so please carpool, if possible. Space is limited to the first 6 people who register and we are required to have 6 people for the class to make. Come try something brand new!</p>	<p>Sunday June 25 1-6pm</p>	<p>Please RSVP to RoxAnn as soon as possible roxann4tx@aol.com</p>
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Thank you, RoxAnn!

Club Treasurer, Joy Emshoff, presents a memento to RoxAnn Donahoo, last year's Club President, in recognition for all of her hard work leading the Austin TOWN.

(Outings message from Amelia cont. from page 1...)

This spring several changes were made to the Outings procedures. Outing leaders will be entered into a drawing for \$50 for each liability release that is sent to our secretary - Helen Sabin. The address to mail the completed form will soon be added to the liability release form. Outing leaders will be entered into another drawing for \$50 when the "trip report" is sent to our web queen Jacque Austin and also sent out on TOWN group email. ANYONE sending Jacque photos from an outing will also be entered into a drawing for \$50 - one chance for every outing you send photos for. **Drawings for these (3) \$50 checks will take place at the November meeting. The more you do, the better your chances of winning some \$50 checks.** So, go outside, have fun and take lots of photos on the outings.

My Achy, Breaky Butt & Legs!

Presentation by Jacque Austin at March Meeting on ***Points to Consider When Planning a Biking Vacation***

Jacque gave a fun and informative presentation on why one would take a bike vacation, questions to ask the company leading the trip, what to pack, the 2 types of tours, various price levels, what things the trips might include, and how to prepare your body and equipment. She thoroughly covered advantages and disadvantages to consider at all levels. There were tasty treats from Luna bars, and detailed brochures and bike tour literature passed out to the group. She added to the information by showing photos from the numerous trips that she has done. The audience participated, as well, by sharing anecdotes from some of their experiences and asking questions. Let's go riding!

Trip Reports



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March/April 2006
Austin TOWN

My apologies for not having room to fit
all the wonderful recent trip reports!
See website for others...

Submitted by member, Penny Mudgett ; **Wine and Wildflower Tour April 22**

The wildflowers were scarce, but the wine was plentiful and tasty!

We had a fun group of 12 (including four friends of TOWNies and one brave spouse) who ventured into the wine country east of Fredericksburg to do some tasting, buying, eating, and music appreciating. We all met up at Grape Creek Vineyard on 290W just a few miles past Stonewall and sampled some great grape vintages, bought a few bottles, then headed for Becker Vineyards nearby for a tour and more sampling and buying. Becker was charming, with a bed and breakfast cabin on site and a great veranda for viewing their lavender fields and beautiful flower beds! We had worked up an appetite by that time so we headed down the road to Torre di Pietra Vineyard to sample wines with such great names as "Red Flirt" "Rosa Flamenco" and "Chiaro de Luna." This is a very nice winery with a great gift shop and covered outside facilities among the fields of vines. We sat at tables and chairs under a breezy portico to eat our "gourmet" lunches and drink the wines we had purchased listening the blues stylings of Toni Price and her band. It was a lovely afternoon and we all had a great time watching some of the old timers kick up their heels on the small dance floor, listening to great blues and relaxing with our wine selections.

From there we split up, some headed home, some to explore the Wild Seed Farm just up 290 and others to pick strawberries in the Marble Falls, Burnet area. A good time was had by all and we would highly recommend a trip to these great wineries as a fun way to spend a day in the Hill Country.



Toni Price photo courtesy
of Mae Scheib

Full Moon Party

Submitted by member RoxAnn Donahoo

We had 10 hikers for the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve Full Moon Party on April 13. The weather was pleasant and the skies were clear. We took short hike to overlook where park steward, Harriet, gave a great talk on the different stars and the moon. We could hear different birds singing. We were glad we wore good hiking shoes because it was rocky. We were so glad we brought our portable chairs because you do not want to sit on the ground there (scorpions, etc.) After the hike, the Austin Astronomy Club had a very good telescope available for viewing the moon, stardust, and Saturn. The moon was so bright that you didn't need a flashlight.

Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Outing Leaders: Stephanie Zellous and Penny Mudgett
What a gorgeous day we had last Saturday to **hike at Wild Basin!** It was a first time experience for many of us that had not been there and we were all impressed with the beauty of this wonderful preserve in the heart of Austin. We had 8 hikers who made the journey fun and interesting. We all got to meet new people and/or get to know each other better as I led the group in a circle (missed the turn-off) and Stephanie stepped in and led us in the right direction to complete our 2 plus mile hike as we identified the native vegetation by using the interpretive information provided by the preserve concerning the various species of plants, trees, etc. (there are many more trees, thus much shadier than I had expected). We had lunch at the Waterloo Ice House afterward to reload any calories burned and get to know each other better. Thanks to all who participated -- we look forward to seeing you all again soon on another TOWN outing!

Submitted by member, Susie - Judy, Sandy, and I did the **Capital 10K** yesterday. We walked at a good pace and had a fun time listening to the various bands along the course and seeing all the different costumes that some racers wore-- Popeye & Olive Oil; Marge Simpson; the UT Tower; a traffic signal; a few Bunnies; and a couple of chickens just to name a few. Sandy and I wore funky hats that were made out of paper bags, feathers (boa style), and ribbons. Our hats caught the eye of the American Statesman, News 8, and KEYE who interviewed the 3 of us. This gave us the perfect opportunity to mention TOWN each time. After the race, we hung out at Auditorium Shores, had a snack, and listened to the band Duck Soup for a short while before heading home. This would be a GREAT event to do again next year, but we should wear our TOWN t-shirts next time. And maybe I'll dress up like a kayak next year???